

Weekly Views

November 7, 2014

The Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) Culinary Art students have new aprons thanks to volunteer Mary Ruble and her spiritual based group called VICTORY. Mary Ruble volunteers weekly with the Outreach Program, and her group helps with the Special Needs Unit. They are also involved with other prison donations. (photo right)



The Indiana State Prison held its first ever memorial service in the chapel. The memorial included a candle light service of prayers and readings for the loved ones of offenders who have passed away during the past two years.

ISP also remembered three special men that worked at ISP; Saul Berkowitz (Jewish volunteer), Hank Adams (Kairos volunteer), and Paul Petroff (ISP GED Education). Approximately 60 offenders attended the service.

"Fright Nights in the Valley" was a spine tingling success at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF)! The first ever WVCF Halloween haunted house served a dual purpose; a fun family event for Wabash staff and to scare up support for local charities. Admission was free, along with the hot chocolate and cookies, but a donation of canned goods or toys was gladly accepted. Toys will go to the local Toys for Tots drive, and the canned goods will help supply area food banks. Over 550lbs of food was collected to be added to the upcoming WVCF holiday food campaign. Commissioner Bruce Lemmon was among the hundreds who dared to take the ghoulish tour. Thank you to all of the staff who donated their time and money to make "Fright Nights in the Valley" possible! (photo left)



Putnamville Correctional Facility has the pleasure of hosting four brand new retired racing dogs to participate in the Prison Greyhound Program. This program is designed to socialize and train these wonderful creatures for a loving family lifestyle after a life of racing. Chow, Chow, Barnum, Bailey and Pelican (pictured right)



are the newest arrivals, and two of them are already adopted out!

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) and the Indiana Blood Center (IBC) teamed up to host the final blood drive at CIF for 2014. IBC came to the facility for two days so staff on all brackets could participate. 32 units of blood were collected. Superintendent Wendy Knight, who also donated, said, "It is such a simple why to make a huge difference in someone's life. CIF employees were happy to help and we will continue next year making a difference.

The Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) awarded a total of \$5,100 to five charities as a part of its Community Involvement Grant. Kokomo Rescue Mission was given \$2,000 to replace existing cabinets and countertops in the kitchen of the facility's Open Arms shelter for homeless women and children. \$1,000 was awarded to the Carver Community Center in Kokomo to help fund a boxing program for pre-teen and teen youth from nearby counties. The River of Life Christian Church received \$1,000 to assist them in serving a traditional Thanksgiving Meal to local residents. Little Turtle Waterway received \$600 to excavate and replace poor soil and buy 22 trees for the waterway trail. Citizens for Change-Cause for Paws in Logansport will receive \$500. The group is moving their adoption center to the Cass County Humane Society.

Kairos held their 15th three-day weekend at the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF), which was described as a short course in Christianity. Led by Kairos Volunteer Jon Byrum, 33 volunteers ministered to 36 offender participants in song, prayer and shared life's experiences. During the closing ceremony a sense of calmness and brotherhood encompassed the Chapel as crosses were offered to all participants and offenders expressed their gratitude for the experience. Past Kairos graduates, outside volunteers and Assistant Superintendent Andrew Cole joined Sunday's closing ceremony festivities.

Westville Correctional Facility and Grace College held its annual graduation celebration. Families of 65 graduates joined in the gym for the ceremony and refreshments. For the 2013-14 fiscal year, there were 190 GED/TASC graduates, 46 Auto Tech, 56 Building Maintenance, 54 Business Tech, 48 Culinary Arts, and 53 Horticulture Vocational Education completions, for a total of 447 educational successes.

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility proudly announces the promotion of Youth Developmental Specialist Jamilah Lewis (Chatham) to Correctional Sergeant. Sergeant Lewis has been with the Department of Correction since August 2011 working at Madison Juvenile and enjoys the opportunity to help young female juveniles change their life. She attended Madison High School and loves outdoor activities with her children.

Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) hosted a Therapeutic Community (TC) graduation for 61 members of the CLIFF (Clean Lifestyle is Freedom Forever) unit who recently completed the program. Emily Kirk, Regional Director of Addiction Recovery with Corizon, was the guest speaker. Also speaking during the event were Tricia Pretorius, MCF Assistant Superintendent of Reentry, and Tracy Jones, CLIFF Director, as well as Offender Jeremy Sharp who gave the graduate speech. Members of the American Legion Post 555 presented the colors, and the MCF offender choir entertained with a song.